

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007



Photograph by S.J. Culbertson

FUNDING			EXPENDITURES		
General Fund	45.51%	\$2,203,892	Research Center	17.74%	\$859,435
Enterprise Funds	17.78%	\$861,296	Agency Management	17.42%	\$843,515
Federal Funds	16.99%	\$823,220	Historic Preservation	13.18%	\$638,639
Accommodations Tax	11.45%	\$554,872	Fixed Costs*	12.82%	\$620,876
Donations/Grants	8.27%	\$400,701	Museum	11.47%	\$555,394
			Publications	8.47%	\$410,280
TOTAL FUNDING		\$4,843,981	Public Education & Outreach	8.31%	\$402,461
			Museum Store	5.53%	\$268,045
			Security	4.71%	\$228,383
			Board of Trustees	.35%	\$16,953
			*includes rent, insurance, capitol grounds maintenance		
			TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$4,843,981

*The Banking Corporation, ca. 1910's
6th and Fuller, Helena,
Montana Historical Society, 953-033
S.J. Culbertson photographer*

*Cover Image: Ulm Ranch (detail)
Josh Elliot
2006, oil on canvas
Montana Historical Society, Rendezvous Legacy Collection
Tom Ferris photographer*

FISCAL YEAR 2007 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Montana Historical Society was allocated \$2,203,892 in general fund support from the Montana Legislature for fiscal year 2007. These funds were used for general operations and personal services. Additionally, the Montana Historical Society received \$554,872 in Accommodations Tax, which in part supported: the National Register sign program, museum exhibitions, the Bob Scriver Collection, and education and outreach programs.

The Society received \$823,220 in federal funds; the majority of these funds supported the State Historical Preservation Office in promoting and facilitating preservation of the state's historic, archaeological, and traditional cultural places.

The Society's enterprise fund generated \$861,296 to support

operations of the Society store and the Publications program which produces the award-winning Montana The Magazine of Western History and scholarly history books.

Through donations and grants the Society received \$400,701 to support projects including: the Identifying African American Heritage Resources project, David Thompson Bicentennial Conference, the on-line catalogue for the Evelyn Cameron Photographic Collection, and oral histories reflecting Montana's heritage.

Due to increases in general fund, federal funds, donations and grants when compared to the previous year, the Montana Historical Society concluded fiscal year 2007 on a positive note.

Big Sky ...Big History: A Message from the Director Richard Sims



The fiscal year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, paralleled my first year as the Society Director. During those twelve months, I traveled over 6,000 miles around Montana, holding over two dozen community meetings, and saying howdy to fellow Montanans and heritage-keepers.

Here under the Big Sky, where western history is big and bold, it really helps to not use big e-mail. Personal visits still count for quite a bit in the rural West. On those trips, as I reflect on our theme of Big History, I realize that I had many "big" occasions. I certainly encountered big pride in local history everywhere, from Libby to Ekalaka. I also encountered a big chicken fried steak in Cut Bank, a big wait at a railroad crossing outside Culbertson, a big rolling wheat-sea of grain ready for harvesting on the road from Wolf Point to Scobey, a big sunset behind Glacier National Park, a big field of big hay bales darn near everywhere, a big herd of elk south of Cameron, a big pioneer cabin outside Lewistown, a big and poignant feeling for history at Big Hole National Battlefield, and a big slice of banana cr me pie in Bearcreek. Mostly I kept encountering the same big idea – that the Montana Historical Society can elevate the quantity and quality of its service to all of our colleagues outside of Helena. We have begun that work. Our shoulders are now put to the big wheel of Montana history in a new spirit of cooperation and partnership. (By the way, I only wear that big hat of mine when dutch-oven cooking or auctioning art at an outdoor event.)

Richard Sims



*Breast Plate
Hair pipe, bird-of-prey talons, brass beads
Worn by John Sitting Bull
ca. 1900
David Humphreys Miller Collection
Geoffrey Wyatt photographer*

SOCIETY AT A GLANCE

- Governed by a 15-member statewide volunteer Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor.
- Organized into 6 specialized service programs: Research, Museum , Education, Publications, Historic Preservation, and Administration.
- All of the Society's public services are provided by 45 full-time and 18 part-time employees and with an annual budget of \$4.8 million.
- Relies on tax-deductible charitable gifts, fundraisers and private and public grants to fund 43%of our annual expenses; 57% of our budget is provided by direct State appropriations.
- Holds in trust for Montana and provides access to over 50,000 books; 455,000 historical photographs; 8,000 maps; 2,000 oral history interviews; 25,000 linear feet of manuscripts and state records; 55,000 artifacts; 8,000 pieces of artwork; 46,800 inventory files for all recorded Montana archaeological, historic, and architectural sites; and 29,600 cultural resource survey reports.
- Publishes a quarterly western history journal, and one to two new books each year.
- Lists Montana properties in the National Register of Historic Places, supports local preservation efforts, and promotes \$3 to \$5 million in historic preservation rehabilitation work through tax credit incentives annually.
- Manages the Original Governor's Mansion in Helena as an historic house museum with preservation assistance provided by a citizen restoration board.
- Partners with the Billings Preservation Society, assisting the Moss Mansion historic house museum with management consultation.
- Enriches the lives of thousands of Montana students by providing curriculum resources, teacher training, tours, and hands-on activities.
- Offers traveling exhibits, temporary exhibits, an annual history conference, archeology programs, and workshops on historic preservation.
- One of only 771 museums nationwide accredited by the American Association of Museums.

BIG SKY...BIG HISTORY

MHS Mission:

The goal of the Montana Historical Society is to promote an understanding and appreciation of Montana history by collecting, preserving, and providing broad access to the historical resources maintained by the museum, library, and archives; by producing educational and enjoyable exhibits, public programs, and publications; by protecting historic sites and other cultural resources; and by aiding other individuals or entities with like-minded goals.

Society Events and Programs

- *Our Place in the West: Voices from the Yellowstone River Valley*, the Society's 33rd Annual Montana History Conference was held in Billings, September 28-30.
- The 28th annual Western Rendezvous of Art events held in Helena on August 17-20, 2006, attracted over 1,500 people. The sales from the quick draw and art show exceeded \$419,150 and garnered \$40,000 for art acquisition.
- The 2007 biennial Montana Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony was attended by 240 people at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena on January 17. Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger presented certificates to owners and representatives of 40 properties recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Montana 2007 Historic Preservation Awards were presented to: the Montana Preservation Alliance; Jack Fisher & Gene Thompson; the Bruyer Granary Restoration Project, Kalispell; and the Montana Land Title Association Foundation.
- Successful annual fundraising events at the Original Governor's Mansion—the Holiday Home Tour and the Secret Garden Tour—raised funds for mansion restoration. The December Holiday Home Tour featured five private homes and the Mansion decorated for the holidays enjoyed by over 250 participants. A special reception at the Governor's Residence followed the tour. Over 600 people purchased tickets to visit the six "secret" Helena gardens as part of the Secret Garden Tour.
- *Indian Education For All Best Practices: Museums and Schools as Co-Educators*, a three-day seminar for museums and schools on Indian education held in May, was organized by the Society and was sponsored by a Montana Office of Public Instruction Indian Education for All grant. Museum staff and educators from Great Falls, Fort Benton, Malta, Red Lodge, Glasgow, Wolf Point and Harlowton attended this forum and planned projects to continue collaborative efforts. Museums were also awarded \$8,500 each to enhance their Indian collections and exhibits.
- Over 2,106 people attended 52 programs at the Society, including Thursday evening programs and the March lecture series. Throughout Montana the Society's 92 *On The Road* programs were attended by 2,478 people.



The Western Rendezvous of Art show

Helena Civic Center, August 2006

Tom Cook photographer

- *Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark* exhibit opening activities held September 21-23, 2006 attracted over 2,100 people. A meeting of the Indian Advisory Panel preceded the exhibit's grand opening, Native American Heritage Day featured tours and activities throughout the museum, and a free Family Day provided a new look at the Society's newest major long-term exhibit.
 - *Summer Under the Tent* days featured a variety of activities for kids of all ages in 2006. Over 550 participants were engaged in those two programs, "Montana Dances" and "Montana Mosaic: Art in Montana."
 - The second annual David Thompson Bicentennial conference *Beyond Borders and Boundaries: David Thompson and the North American Fur Trade* was held at the Society in June. This three-day, major international event attracted over 100 participants from across the U.S. and Canada.
- ## On-Line with the Society
- *Society in the News*, a new web component, was added to our web site (www.montanahistoricalsociety.org) in an effort to provide up-to-date news on all projects and events for the web-surfing public.
 - The Research Center added over 2,378 records to the Montana Shared Catalog, an online searchable database. The program also submitted 297 finding aids for collections to the online database Northwest Digital Archives (nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/), making over 544 collection inventories accessible online.
 - The Research Center also added 840 digital images to records in the Montana Shared Catalog, making many primary resources available online for the first time.
 - A streaming video of *Montana Mosaic: 20th Century People and Events* DVD curriculum resource for schools was added to our web site with assistance from the Office of Public Instruction.

- The first of our Hands-On History footlockers, *Home Fires: Montana and WWII*, was digitized and made available on the website through the courtesy of the Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative's Teaching American History grant.
- The Montana Historical Society website was visited by over 667,000 individuals. The Museum Store On-Line Catalog received over 5,463 visits.
- A Montana History WIKI, an internet encyclopedia, was created to provide a trusted online resource for general information on Montana history.
- Our on-line quarterly newsletter, [The Montana Post](#), reached 600 e-mail subscribers in addition to web site readers.

Friends of the Society Volunteer Activities

- Our volunteer corps—the Friends of the Society—lead group tours of the museum, catalogued artifacts and photographs, prepared food for receptions and gallery openings, transcribed oral histories, prepared mailings, and assisted with events.
- Celebrating the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Friends group, staff and Trustees thanked the volunteers with an Appreciation Luncheon in April 2007. The Society accepted a symbolic check for \$100,000, representing value of nearly 10,000 volunteer hours for the past year contributed by 135 volunteers.

Society Exhibits

Montana's Museum

Audiences enjoyed 14 temporary and permanent exhibits featuring Montana's art and history, including:

Big Medicine

Got Art? (new art acquisitions)

It's About Time: the History of the Pocket Watch

Mackay Gallery of C.M. Russell Art

The Rendezvous Legacy Collection

Splendid was the Trail: The Photographs of K. D. Swan

Teton Views by Conrad Schwiering

Treasure State Treasures

Six new exhibits were installed:

Photographing Montana, 1894-1928: The World of Evelyn Cameron

Neither Empty Nor Unknown : Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark

On Track: the Railroad Photographs of Warren McGee

Let Wonderland Tell It's Story: The 1871 Alberttypes of William Henry Jackson

Montana By Food: A Taste of the Past

Landscape Photographs from the Collection

- Society staff assisted with arrangements for a traveling photograph exhibit, titled *Sudan: the Land and the People*, which was shown in the Capitol Old Law Library beginning June 2007.
- A promotional exhibit on the Montana Historical Society was produced for the new Helena Visitors Center on Highway 12 East.
- *Herd Bull*, our signature sculpture on the Society's front lawn was removed in fall 2006 while on loan to the artist for casting. A painted Cree tipi from the Rocky Boy's Reservation made c. 1985 was erected in its place through spring 2007 when *Herd Bull* was reinstalled.

State Capitol Exhibits

- Art from the Society's Capitol Collection was displayed in the



Milwaukee Engine #36 #8 4-4-0, Ringling, Montana, 2/20/1942

Montana Historical Society, Pac 97-93.11087

Photograph by Warren McGee

Governor’s Office, Lieutenant Governors’ Office, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and at the executive residence.

- A ceremony at the Capitol honored newspaperman and former Society director Sam Gilluly, and forester/educator Arnold Bolle, the two most recent inductees into the *Gallery of Outstanding Montanans* located in the west wing.
- The Society produced a display for a ceremony at the Capitol on September 14 honoring Gov. Donald Nutter. The Nutter memorial plaque was unveiled at its new location on the south lawn.
- New information on the heretofore unknown artist of the statue known as *Lady Liberty* was revealed to be sculptor Edward Van Langdeghem of Pennsylvania. Through research the artist’s granddaughter tracked down Society staff who confirmed that the statue, “Montana,” seen in a family photo was one and the same artwork gracing the Capitol. A press conference and news story garnered statewide and national press.

Traveling Exhibits

Two new traveling exhibits were produced: *Montana By Food: A Taste of the Past* and *On Track: the Railroad Photographs of Warren McGee*.

- Eleven different venues in Billings (2), Big Fork, Chinook, Colstrip, Conrad, Helena, Huntley, Libby, Polson, and St. Louis, Missouri hosted the Society’s traveling exhibits.
- *Montana By Food: A Taste of the Past*
 - *Documenting the Corps of Discovery*
 - *A Capital Capitol*
 - *Hope in Hard Times: New Deal Photographs of Montana, 1936–1942*
 - *Photographing Montana 1894–1928: The World of Evelyn Cameron*
 - *F. Jay Haynes: Fifty Views*



Watermelon Party near Helena, ca. 1900
Marie Walters Shafer(standing center) and Clem Shafer (standing left)
Montana Historical Society, PAc 2004 -6.4



We Proceeded On
Eugene Daub
2006, Bronze bas relief
Montana Historical Society, Montana State Capitol Art Collection
Doug O’looney photographer

Historic Preservation Activities

- Seven communities —Butte, Fort Benton, Lewistown, Missoula, Red Lodge, Terry and Virginia City—received \$90,000 in matching grant funding from the Society to support heritage preservation planning, interpretation, and tourism activities through a federal *Preserve America* grant program. Montana’s Preserve America Communities are: Anaconda-Deer Lodge; Billings; Butte-Silver Bow; Fort Benton; Great Falls; Lewistown; Missoula; Stevensville; Red Lodge; Terry; and Virginia City.
- Three historic barns in Belt, Melrose and Wibaux received \$5,000 each for stabilization and repairs through a Society 2006 Rural Property Bricks and Mortar grant program.
- The Society’s National Register Sign Program manufactured 55 signs for sites in Helena, Gallatin County, Troy, Hamilton, Lewistown, Butte, Orphan Girl Mine project, Miles City, Billings, Anaconda, Harrison, Kalispell, Bozeman, Missoula, St. Xavier, Shelby, Havre, and the Butte-Anaconda Historic District.
- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) distributed \$78,500 in annual matching support to 15 communities within the Montana Certified Local Government (CLG) network of local preservation offices.
- SHPO added 1,805 newly inventoried and recorded historic and archaeological properties to the State Antiquities Database, now exceeding 46,800 recorded properties in total.

- Twenty new Montana historic properties were listed in the National Register of Historic Places:
Deer Lodge County - Anaconda Saddle Club in Anaconda
Fergus County - Abraham Hogeland & Mary Walton House and Lewistown Satellite Airfield District (Boundary Increase) in Lewistown
Flathead County - Bruyer Granary in Kalispell and McCarthy-Pederson Farm
Gallatin County - B Bar K Ranch and Watkins Creek Ranch
Lewis & Clark County - Robert & Elizabeth Fisk Residence; Williams Street Bridge; Montana State Fairgrounds Racetrack; Spalding-Gunn House; and Francis & Hannah Pope House in Helena; and Alice Creek Trail Historic District, Lewis & Clark National Forest
Lincoln County - Troy Jail and the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge in Troy
SilverBow County - Parrot Mine Shops in Butte
Teton County - Teton County Courthouse in Choteau
Valley County - Rundle Building in Glasgow
Yellowstone County - Harold & Marion Ruth House and Black Otter Trail in Billings
- With support of the state Information Technology Services Division, the Society initiated a project for digitizing the locations of Montana’s 1,000-plus properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places into a GIS cadastral computer mapping program. Upon completion public access to Montana’s National Register data will be greatly enhanced.
- SHPO represented the Society on the Governor’s Council on

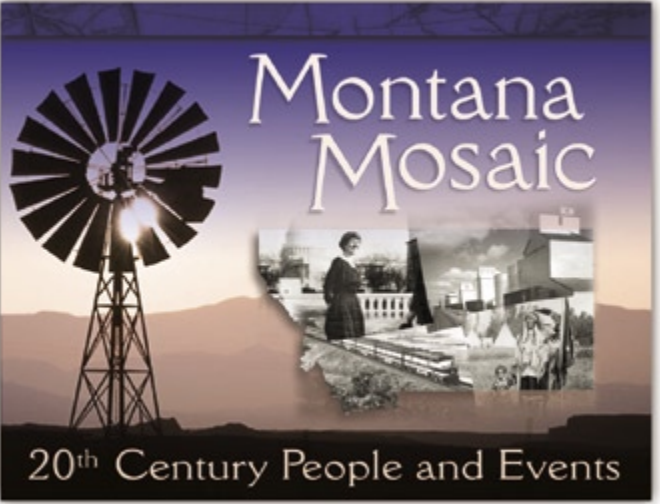
Historic and Cultural Properties who developed a new vision for state historic preservation which was presented to the 60th Legislature in 2007.

Awards Received

- The MHS Press book *Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana’s Historic Highway Bridges, 1860–1956* and the statewide speaking engagements undertaken by Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline and photographer Kristi Hager of Missoula garnered a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History.
- *Montana Mosaic: 20th Century People and Events*, a twelve-part DVD curriculum resource for Montana’s schools, received a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History.
- The MHS Press book *Copper Chorus: Mining, Politics, and the Montana Press, 1889–1959* won a Western Writers of America Spur Award for best western, contemporary nonfiction.

Major Fiscal Year 2007 Grants and Donations

- SHPO received \$63,000 in cost-share assistance from the Bureau of Land Management to facilitate electronic data sharing and Geographical Information System (GIS) development for 2007–2008.
- Grants from the Montana Committee for the Humanities enabled museum cataloging work, aided the production of the traveling exhibit, *Montana by Food: A Taste of the Past*, and supported the *Montana Mosaic* teacher’s institute on twentieth-century Montana history.
- The National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program provided \$30,000 toward interpretive materials for the exhibit *Neither Empty Nor Unknown*.
- The Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative contributed



Montana Mosaic: 20th Century People and Events DVD
Classroom resource produced by the MHS Education Office
2007 American Association for State and Local History Award winner



Archeology Day
September 6, 2007
Montana Historical Society Collection
J.M. Cooper, photographer

Public Instruction awarded \$26,000 to the project — including \$4,500 to be used to create supplemental activities relating to Montana Indians. The Steele-Reese Foundation granted \$50,000 for publication of the Montana History textbook.

- Funding to assist with the exhibit *On Track: the Railroad Photographs of Warren McGee* was secured from the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association (\$10,200) and the Montana Department of Transportation (\$4,500).
- The Library received a grant for \$4,905 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to conduct a conservation assessment of the map collection and to provide training to staff on improved care and handling of historic maps.
- 2006 *Montana History Conference* sponsors included: the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Montana History Foundation, Montana Department of Transportation, Montana State University-Billings College of Technology, Volney Steele of Bozeman, and the Society's Bair and Bradley Trusts.
- Donors to the second annual David Thompson Bicentennial conference included: Humanities Montana, Idaho State Historical Society, Land Surveyors' Association of Washington, Surveyors Historical Society, Michigan Society of Registered Surveyors, Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors, National Society of Professional Surveyors, and the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.



Pre-vue magazine – August 1971, Empire Printing, Inc., Billings
50th anniversary of the Montana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs
Montana Historical Society, 1971-08-01 MC 281 1-9

\$36,000 toward creation of a web-based curriculum resource for teachers K-12 of American and Montana history.

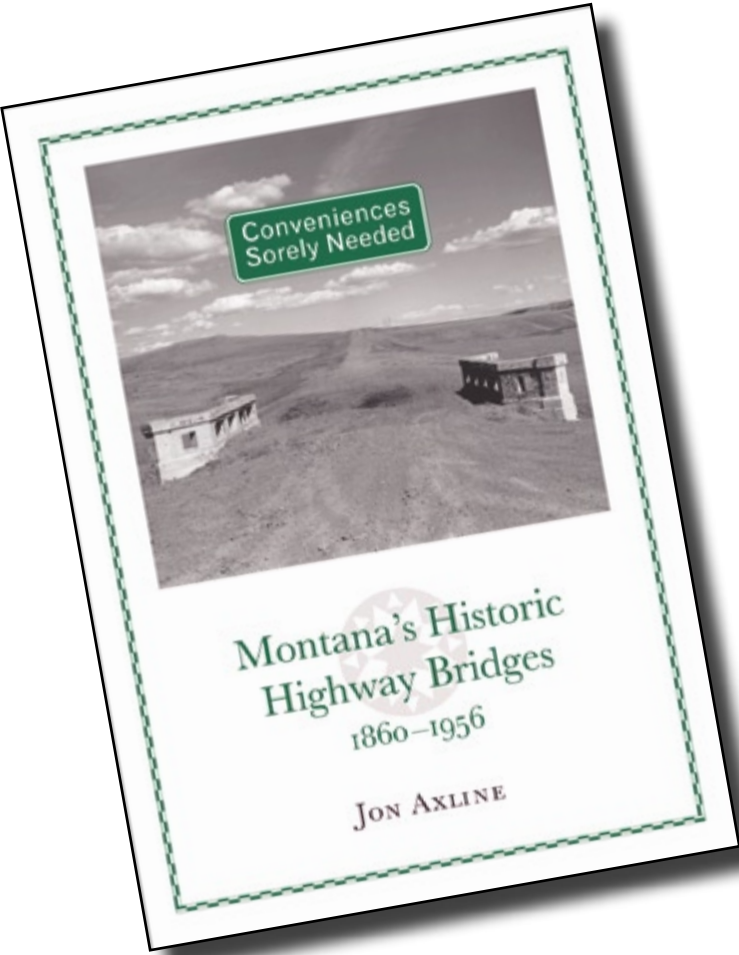
- A \$10,000 donation from the Montana Land Title Association (MLTA) Foundation continued for FY 2007 support for research and writing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Montana Legislative Spouses donated \$2,000 towards the Capitol Senate Chamber bronze mural *We Proceeded On*.
- Our *Identifying African American Resources Project* benefited from additional 2007 funding by the Montana Legislatures' Cultural and Aesthetic Grant Project program as well as the Sobotka Intern Fund. Scott Meredith, University of New Mexico graduate student intern, helped research census data and organized volunteers for this project which will result in improved public access to the Society's collections in this area.
- A Montana Office of Public Instruction Indian Education for All grant of \$170,000 funded *Indian Education For All Best Practices: Museums and Schools as Co-Educators*, which consisted of a three-day seminar for museums and schools on Indian education and re-granted funds to ten community museums for continuing work in this area.
- The Montana History Foundation contributed a \$10,000 grant from PPL and raised an additional \$17,500 in private sources to help fund the Society's upcoming textbook, *Montana: Stories from the Land*. The Indian Education Department at the Office of

Montana Historical Society Publications

- Four fascinating issues of *Montana the Magazine of Western History* were produced, mailed to subscribers and sold on newsstands throughout Montana and the West. The Winter special issue on Butte sold out. The Summer issue featured a color article on the *Neither Empty Nor Unknown* exhibit; 5,000 copies were reproduced as a stand-alone off-print, serving as a catalog for that exhibit. Funding for this catalog was provided by a National Park Service's Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail grant.
- The MHS Press published *Copper Chorus: Mining, Politics, and the Montana Press, 1889-1959*, a history of Anaconda Company ownership of Montana newspapers, written by University of Montana journalism professor Dennis Swibold.
- The academic database JSTOR invited *Montana the Magazine of Western History* to become a member. Through JSTOR the contents of every magazine published since 1951 will be available for research in a fully searchable format. The Society's magazine is the first historical society journal to become part of this prestigious collaboration.
- The MHS Membership and Publications programs worked together to produce a full-color "Quilts of Montana" membership calendar featuring quilts from the Montana Historic Quilt Project.

Helping Montana Schools Teach History

- *Hands-On History* footlockers traveled across Montana, serving over 18,929 children and 2,051 adults. They included the Society's latest addition to the footlocker program, *To Learn a New Way*, produced with funds from the Montana Office of Public Instruction.
- Work proceeded at a fast pace on the Society's forthcoming 22-chapter middle school history textbook *Montana: Stories of the Land*. The author, editor, reviewers, consultants and designers were busy all year with a goal of placing the textbooks in Montana classrooms for the 2008 school year. Loan copies of the Dangberg Foundation-funded history textbook, *Montana: People and Their Stories* by Andrea Merrill-Maker, were provided to Montana-history teachers pending publication.
- All middle and high schools in the state were sent a copy of this award-winning MHS-produced DVD curriculum resource, *Montana Mosaic: 20th Century People and Events*. Libraries and museums in the state as well as individual requests received a copy of the DVD. We featured the DVD at an OPI-sponsored event on Indian Education For All resources in the Capitol rotunda in January. The National Endowment for the Humanities-funded DVD curriculum resource project is nearing completion, but planning for focus-group evaluations and another round of publicity is underway. The Montana Office of Public Instruction added the entire DVD production on their website using streaming video.



Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges, 1860-1956 Jon Axline, author

Published by Montana Historical Society Press

2007 American Association for State and Local History Award winner

- Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative's Teaching American History grant-funded *Virtual Mentor Project* provides online access to Society Hands-On History footlockers. Digitization of The Home Fires: Montana in WWII footlocker was completed, and an accompanying web quest was produced. Early-career classroom educators who are new to the profession of teaching are served, and content material is delivered to the most remote areas of Montana where educators do not have the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues.
- A series of new gallery tours for the *Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark* exhibit were developed for K-12 groups and general audiences.
- Society staff was instrumental in many teacher institutes held to assist educators in accessing history resources for the classroom, including: Teaching Through American History Institute, Missoula; Golden Triangle Teacher Institute, Great Falls; Jefferson School Pilot Project, Helena; and History Harvesters Institute (Vermont), Virginia City; and Indian Education for All, Helena.
- The long-running *Montana Heritage Project* which connected the Society with high school teachers and students around the state went dormant in June 2006, when the Liz Claiborne-Art Ortenberg Foundation ceased its support.

Assisting the Public

- Reference requests from individuals, organizations, businesses and public agencies are fielded daily throughout the Society. Answers to public inquiries numbered over 14,100: 12,408 in the Research Center; 817 in the Museum; and 875 in Education.
- The Preservation Office responded to 1,830 requests from organizations, public agencies, businesses, and the public for information and reviews of projects with potential to impact historic properties and archeological sites.
- Over 930 public requests for reproduction of nearly 6,000 items from Society collections were fulfilled.
- The Research Center awarded a Bradley fellowship to Andrew Graybill, of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, to conduct in-depth research in its collections.
- The Preservation Office reviewed and facilitated \$831,390 in federal and state preservation tax credits to Montana owners, who invested \$3.5 million in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties.
- 3,840 museum objects were cataloged into the Museum collections database, totaling 25,380 digital object catalog records available.

New Acquisitions and Collections Preservation

- 1,041 books, maps and other items, 1374.3 feet of archival records, 11 oral history interviews, and 17,535 photographic images were added to the Research Center’s permanent collection this year. Notable acquisitions include: the L.H. Jorud photograph collection consisting of over 90 feet of photographic documentation of Helena over 50 years; an 1864 broadside printed in Virginia City outlining Chief Justice Hosmer’s instructions to the territory’s grand jury; and the Secretary of State Business Entities Records (1867-1997), which consist of articles of incorporation, summary annual reports and dissolution notices for businesses in Montana.
- The Museum acquired 60 new collections, a total of 392 objects. Artifacts of special note include: seventeen Native American items from the estate of artist David Humphries Miller; child’s chaps, spurs and gloves made by Joseph Sullivan (Ft. Benton) belonging to Frank A. Flanagan born in Fort Benton, M.T. in 1880; the Eugene Daub bronze mural for Capitol Senate Chambers – *We Proceeded On*; a bow made by William Standing; 88 items of clothing and accessories from the Hall family, dating from 1900 to 1960; oil painting *Ulm Ranch* by Helena artist Josh Elliot, the MHS Legacy Purchase Award winner at the Western Rendezvous of Art.
- Restoration of the original pigskin wall-covering in the dining room of the Original Governor’s Mansion was completed. The project was paid for by funds raised by the OGM Restoration Society.
- At the Original Governor’s Mansion, building repair projects were completed through use of State long-range building funds, including: removal, reconstruction and installation of the porch railings and balustrades, repair of the porch roof, curved window

repair, and major foundation repair, and exterior painting of the carriage house.

- Three murals from the series *History of Montana*, by Jack Beauchamp, were professionally cleaned and mounted; they were installed in the meeting room of the City-County Administrative Building in Helena for long-term public view. The City of Helena contributed funds for this project.
- The Liberty Bell monument on the south end of the Society’s lawn was re-furbished this winter. A new massive wood and metal yoke was crafted to replace the old—and structurally unsafe—original.
- The C.M. Russell mural *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross’ Hole*, located in the State Capitol’s House of Representatives, underwent conservation in late June. The Russell masterpiece was professionally conserved and a protective coating was applied to preserve it for future generations.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Activities

- The monumental-size bronze mural by Eugene Daub, *We Proceeded On*, was installed in the Senate chambers as Montana’s lasting tribute to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. A dedication ceremony was held on January 3, 2007, which included the Travelers’ Rest Chapter Brigade of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation presenting the colors, a blessing by Leo Teton (member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe), and a performance by the Helena Youth Choir.
- The final week of the Lewis & Clark in the Rockies Bicentennial Festival took place July 1-9, 2006 in the Missoula area. Total attendance for the 9-day event was 22,343.
- Montana’s second national signature event, “Clark on the Yellowstone,” took place July 22-25 in Billings and at Pompeys Pillar, attended by approximately 50,000 people. A newly completed Interpretive/Visitor Center was dedicated on July 22, followed by opening ceremonies and three days of activities. The Crow Nation participated in the National Day of Honor, with a parade and encampment, followed by closing ceremonies and a Salute to Veterans.
- The Lewis & Clark in Blackfeet Country symposium took place July 26-29, with opening ceremonies at the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning, a reconciliation ceremony at the Two Medicine Fight Site, and a panel discussion of historical events of significant impact on the Blackfeet Tribe.
- Montana’s Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission offices permanently closed in December 2006. The Commission conducted its final meeting on July 21, 2006, in Billings.

Montana History Foundation

Our partner in gaining resources for saving and serving Montana’s history.



The History of Montana – Transportation

John W. “Jack” Beauchamp

1943-1944, Mural, oil on canvas

Montana Historical Society, Gift of the Dennis and Vivian Connors Family

Doug O’looney photographer



Former Holy Rosary Hospital, Miles City

2006 Home and Garden TV RESTORE AMERICA grant recipient

Miles City Historic Preservation Commission (CLG)

Rolene Schliesman photographer



Dance Bustle

Eagle and Pheasant feathers

Belonged to Sam Helper, famous Sioux Grass Dancer

ca.1910, with modern components

David Humphreys Miller Collection

Geoffrey Wyatt photographer

Big Sky...Big History: A Message from the Board of Trustees



Dear Friends,

This has been an eventful and exciting year for the Montana Historical Society. Legislative sessions always require a great deal of budgetary planning by the Director and staff as we prepare our "wish list" and

answer questions from the Budget Director and legislators. While we are rarely granted all we wish for, we were happy to receive much needed funding from the 2007 Legislature for the State Historic Preservation Office as well as funding to digitize the legislative proceedings, and further our in-house programs and outreach programs across the state, including those at the Original Governor's Mansion, the Moss Mansion and the Montana Preservation Alliance.

It was exceptionally exciting for the staff and Trustees alike when a special ceremony was held in January 2007 to unveil the long awaited bronze relief, "We Proceeded On", which is now the centerpiece of the Senate Chamber in the Montana State Capitol. This was the culmination of a project that began in 2004 when the nationally acclaimed artist, Eugene Daub, was commissioned by the Montana Historical Society to produce this monumental artwork commemorating the 1805-1806 Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery in Montana.

Having opened the *Neither Empty Nor Unknown* exhibit in September 2006, the MHS staff began work on curriculum associated with the exhibit as well as tours and an exhibit booklet. In addition, the *Montana Mosaic, 20th Century People and Events* DVD was sent out to schools, museums, and historical societies across the state to serve as an educational tool for grades 7-12. The DVD features historical photographs from the MHS archives and documentary footage from KUFM-Montana PBS along with original footage and oral history interviews. The goal of the DVD is to peak student interest in our history and provides a springboard for classroom discussion.

The Montana Historical Society remains committed to the education of our youth. We look forward to the new Montana History textbook which will be donated to Montana schools for the use of all 7th and 8th grade students. This undertaking was initiated by the Board of Trustees when they designated start up funding in 2004. The Board is grateful to MHS staff for the tremendous amount of work performed on this project and especially to Dave Walter, who envisioned the project and worked tirelessly on it until his untimely death in 2006. The project would not have become a reality without the generosity of Marcella Sherfy-Walter who established the Dave Walter Memorial Fund in honor of her husband; the Steele-Reece

Foundation; the Montana History Foundation; and PPL Global and the Dennis Washington Foundation who made grants to the Montana History Foundation. The Board of Trustees wishes to express their gratitude to every donor—large and small—that has contributed to the success of the textbook project.

We are pleased to reconnect with museum and preservation groups around the state as our Director, Richard Sims, has been diligent in his travels to visit with these groups. The resulting conversations make it clear they want our help and guidance. We look forward to collaborations that will help all of us better preserve Montana's history for the enjoyment of our youth and for visitors in and out of state—now and in the future.

To that end, the MHS Trustees, Director Sims, and Society staff spent many hours imagining our future and the vision of a new home for the Society, "The Montana Heritage Center". We have discussed many scenarios: where should we be, what should we provide, and how do we realize the dream? We are keeping all of Montana in mind, hoping to serve all the people of our great State, in a responsible way. We envision a bright future for Montana's big history under the big sky.

MHS Board of Trustees

MHS Board of Trustees, 2006-2007

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